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How it seems the world has changed in the just seven years since I first attended the AUCCCD Conference in Salt Lake City. It seems that as a society we've moved from hope and engagement to trauma and despair. However, through this time I've found a stable professional home, inspiration, and continuous challenge to be better from my opportunity to be a part of this organization. It is this sense of hope and inspiration which I would like to work to build upon and ensure that we can offer to future directors.

In my development as a Director I have found nudges and encouragements in my work to foster a culture of openness to the new ideas and initiatives which keep us fresh and relevant to our ever young client populations. I believe that this willingness to evolve from the simply comfortable familiar to the uncertain potential of the new is what we must find ways to integrate into our roles as leaders. This professional organization provides the environment (be it in one location together or in virtual connection through our listserv, Toolkit, or director support meetings) that cultivates that growth and rejuvenation. I have moved from a "New Director/First Time Attendee" wide eyed at the wisdom of new colleagues who were willing to share of themselves, to a semi-seasoned Director who has served as a conference presenter, Director on Duty, Mentor, Director Retention Working Group member, and contributor to our regional Directors group, and yet am still a bit wide eyed at the wisdom and kindness of colleagues willing to share experiences and vulnerabilities. I have admittedly felt uncomfortable at each new step, but felt buoyed by the sense of partnership in this endeavor. It is this togetherness which gives me energy and motivation as I leave the conference each year, and now as I think about increasing my contribution to AUCCCD. It is the creativity and compassion of this organization and all its members which fuels my drive to develop, create, take risks, and challenge expectations. If you should see fit to select me to contribute to the board I pledge to bring my capacity to roll with the challenges through a calm and low drama presence, to be steady and reliable as a representative of the board to you and of our profession, to listen openly to all, to provide honest feedback and input even when difficult, and to be willing to take risks where they might move us forward in new and important directions.